



VANDERBURGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

DATE: December 2, 2011
SUBJECT: Shooting at 1712 Eastwood Dr.
RELEASE NUMBER: 2011-NR-077
CONTACT: Major Rick Pace
AUTHORITY: Sheriff Eric Williams

Shooting

Earlier today, at approximately 06:47 AM, deputies from the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's office went to 1712 Eastwood Dr., in Evansville, to execute a court order (82D03-0508-PL-3550). The court order was for the Sheriff's Office to seize property from a Billy Jo Whitledge, who resided at 1712 Eastwood Dr., and return said property to his former business partner. This order was the result of a lawsuit over ownership of assets from a business that Whitledge and his partner had jointly owned.

Deputies knocked at the front door several times in an attempt to speak with Whitledge, who eventually answered the door. The deputies explained to Whitledge their reason for being there and that they needed to retrieve documents and keys for the vehicles to be seized. Whitledge stated to the deputies that he did not have the items and they were at another location. Although deputies advised Whitledge they would accompany him to the location to retrieve the items, Whitledge would not cooperate. The deputies then advised they would file a report documenting the lack of cooperation.

After the deputies advised the business partner of what took place, they began to tow away one of the vehicles listed in the court order. The other vehicles were not at the address. The tow was completed and as the deputies were walking back to their cars to leave, they heard a gun shot and observed Whitledge firing a pistol at the vehicle being driven by the business partner who was also attempting to leave. Whitledge then went back into the house.

The deputies called for assistance and more deputies and officers from the Evansville Police Department arrived. As they positioned themselves around Whitledge's residence, Whitledge came back out of the house and then went back inside. A short time later, Whitledge walked back outside and shot himself in the head with a handgun. Whitledge died later at St. Mary's Medical Center, from the single self-inflicted gunshot wound. No shots were fired by law enforcement personnel at the scene.

A joint investigation by the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office and the Evansville Police Department is currently being conducted.

-END-